



 **DECEMBER**

Open Door **2022**

Richard Rohr writes, “It appears that humans can only know themselves through the gaze of others. We call it mirroring. A good parent, like God, naturally blesses the child through their receptive and affirming face. It is the eternal blessing to the children of Israel, “May Yahweh let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May Yahweh uncover her face to you and bring you peace!” (Numbers 6:25). Bad parents, that is to say, not like God, hand on their own self-rejection to their children.

“In the Good News we have total positive mirroring perfectly described. Receive God’s compassion, and you will be able to be compassionate. Do not receive negative judgment from God, and you will not be judgmental yourself. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Give and it shall be given to you. Jesus describes a perfect reciprocity between what we have received or not received and how we will give or not give.”

As we celebrate the perfect love of our Heavenly Parent, let us be transformed by God’s gifts... and become God’s gifts to others.

Pastor Ray



Deacon Christmas Baskets

**Saturday
December 17th**

This year the Deacon's will be ministering to 29 families by giving them a basket consisting of food, a board game, a Christmas book, and other items such as trash bags and toilet paper.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please let Ross know.

Distribution help hours:
9am - 2pm

*Christmas Eve
7 PM*

*Candlelight
Service*



December 4 Lukewarm Christians
December 11 Falling Down in Worship
December 18 Who is Worthy?
December 24 Good News
December 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!! ... NO CHURCH**



Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom

We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.

Kum Ba Yah topics:

December 2 Red Words Matthew 5: 35-48
December 9 Red Words Matthew 6: 1-15
December 16 Red Words Matthew 6: 16-34
December 23 No KBZ
December 30 No KBZ

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!

December 4 Justice
December 11 Joy
December 18 Salvation
December 25 **NO CHURCH.... MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving 45 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food.

Since the beginning of September 2022, we have given out 487 backpacks.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. From helping pack the backpacks, to their generous donations. With out you, we couldn't make this ministry what it is to-



MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on November 15, 2022. Local mission gifts were given to **Efforts of Hope**, an organization that provides Christmas gifts for recently bereaved seniors and nursing home residents and **Miami Boys & Girls Club**. In Global Mission we gave a gift to **Serving Christ Ministries** (which is operated by John Roberts), providing education in Belize and grants to small businesses in Ghana.

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to “Local Mission” or “Global Mission”.

It was noted that the Deacons have given out 39 pairs of shoes to Ottawa school children this year and are preparing for 30 Christmas baskets. The Food Pantry has given out 278 bags of food through the end of October.



PRESBYTERY UPDATE

The Fall Presbytery Meeting was held at Sequoya Lodge on the banks of Lake Fort Gibson. Pastor Ray and Grace Goodeagle represented our congregation as delegates.

Oklahoma presbyteries are studying the redrawing of boundaries.

The Native American Work Group shared pictures of completed work on church buildings.

The Rev. P. J. Southam was welcomed to EOP. He will serve the Bristow Church.

The new Resourcing, Redevelopment, and New Church Development group is ready to serve.

The Rev. Stephen Carl was installed as Moderator and Elder Melinda Hunt as Vice Moderator.

Valerie Young has resigned her position as Synod of the Sun Moderator. She was thanked for her years of service.

There is discussion between the Cherokee Nation and Dwight Mission about joint programming.

Miami will host the Spring 2023 presbytery meeting



Thank you Cari for the wonderful fall decorations!
You made the time we all spent in the fellowship hall very festive.

Nancy and Kate have taken pictures of everyone under the balloons. They will be coming up with something special and wonderful for you all to enjoy those pictures.



Poinsettias



Poinsettias

If you would like to order a Poinsettia for the sanctuary, return completed form to the church office by December 16th. Poinsettias costs will be \$18.00

From: _____

Quantity: _____ In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____



_____ I will be taking my poinsettia after worship on the 24th.
_____ I will be leaving my poinsettia at the church to be delivered to shut ins.

DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10-12 Food Pantry	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3
4 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Dinner & Hanging of the greens	5 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	6 10-12 Food Pantry	7 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	8 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	9 10-12 Food Pantry	10
11 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 choir 11:30 Deacons mtg	12 10-12 Food Pantry	13 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	14 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	15 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	16 10-12 Food Pantry	17 Christmas Basket Distribution 
18 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 choir	19 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	20 10-12 Food Pantry	21 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	22 10-12 Food Pantry NO Backpack 7:00 GA	23 10-12 Food Pantry	24 Candlelight Service 
25 NO CHURCH MERRY CHRISTMAS! 	26 Office Closed 	27 10-12 Food Pantry	28 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	29 10-12 Food Pantry NO Backpack 7:00 GA	30 10-12 Food Pantry	31



Jeraldine Wilcox.....12/2 *Bill Neill.....12/7*
Karen Norris.....12/4 *David Prince12/12*
Richard Whalen.....12/6 *Dan McCune.....12/22*
David Foster.....12/7

*Should your name be here?
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*

Sweet Street 2022



Servers in the Lord's House			
	Coffee Host	4 States Youth 4 Equality	
December 4	Pot Luck & Hanging of the Greens	December 5	Open
December 11	Open	December 19	Open
December 18	Open		
December 25	Merry Christmas!!		
Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!			



DECEMBER 4TH
POT LUCK DINNER &
HANGING OF THE GREENS



*No church on Sunday
 December 25th*

*Merry
 Christmas!!*

Reverse Advent Calendar

Advent begins **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH** this year.
DECEMBER 24th will end the season as we celebrate the birth
of Jesus.

Here's an idea that that can help so many people.

To get started....find an empty box.
Each Day of Advent add an item.



On December 24th, bring your box to the Christmas Eve Service and we will take it to
the local Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church!

November 27 Mac & Cheese
November 28 1 lb. Dried Pinto Beans
November 29 1 lb. Rice
November 30 Spaghetti Sauce
December 1 Package of Pasta
December 2 Can of Corn
December 3 Can of Green Beans
December 4 Pork & Beans
December 5 Can of Tuna
December 6 Package of Ramen Noodle
December 7 Can of Chicken Noodle Soup
December 8 Package Dry Milk
December 9 Jar of Peanut Butter
December 10 Box of Instant Oatmeal
December 11 Small box of Raisins

December 12 Granola Bars
December 13 Cup of Fruit
December 14 Saltine Crackers
December 15 Applesauce
December 16 Can of Vegetable Soup
December 17 Can of Mixed Veggies
December 18 Can of Chicken
December 19 Box of Cereal
December 20 Can of Tomato Soup
December 21 Peanut Butter Crackers
December 22 Jar of Jelly
December 23 Can of Cream Soup
December 24 Instant Mashed Potatoes

And the Word
became flesh
and lived
among us...

—JOHN 1:14



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 18

1 OUR GIFTS AT WORK: SUPPORTING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

- ❄ \$1.1 million of gifts from 2021 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- ❄ Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 278 individual recipients, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- ❄ Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 227 individual recipients remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- ❄ Emergency Assistance Grants from the BOP helped more than 246 individual recipients facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 NRSV



*The First Presbyterian Church
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.
Miami, OK 74354*